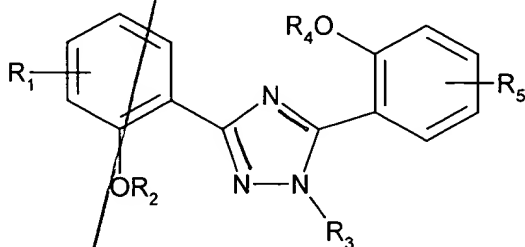


Please amend claim 12 to read as follows:

12. (amended) A compound according to claim 15 which is 2-[3,5-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl]benzoic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Please add the following new claims:

13. A compound of formula II



(II)

wherein each of R₁ and R₅, independently, is hydrogen; halogen; lower alkyl; halo-lower alkyl; lower alkoxy; halo-lower alkoxy; carboxyl; carbamoyl; N-lower alkylcarbamoyl; N,N-di-lower alkylcarbamoyl; or nitrile;

each of R₂ and R₄, independently, is hydrogen; unsubstituted lower alkanoyl; lower alkanoyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, lower alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyclo-lower alkyl or phenyl; unsubstituted aroyl; or aroyl substituted by one or two substituents selected from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, halogen, trifluoromethyl, carboxyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, amino, N-lower alkylamino, N,N-di-lower alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl and nitrile;

R₃ is R₆R₇N-C(O)-lower alkyl; aryl substituted by one or two substituents selected from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, halogen, trifluoromethyl, carboxyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, amino, N-lower alkylamino, N,N-di-lower alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl and nitrile; or aryl-lower alkyl substituted by N-lower alkylamino, N,N-di-lower alkylamino or pyrrolidino;

with the proviso that

R₃ is not phenyl substituted by halogen, nitro, nitrile, hydroxyl, lower alkyl, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy or lower alkoxycarbonyl if R₂ and R₄ are hydrogen, and R₁ and R₅ are hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or nitrile; and

each of R_6 and R_7 , independently, is hydrogen; lower alkyl; hydroxy-lower alkyl; alkoxy-lower alkyl; hydroxyalkoxy-lower alkyl; amino-lower alkyl; N-lower alkylamino-lower alkyl; N,N-di-lower alkylamino-lower alkyl; N-(hydroxy-lower alkyl)amino-lower alkyl; or N,N-di(hydroxy-lower alkyl)amino-lower alkyl;

or a salt thereof. --

22 -- 15. A compound according to claim 15 wherein each of R_1 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen; halogen; lower alkyl; halo-lower alkyl; lower alkoxy; or halo-lower alkoxy;

each of R_2 and R_4 is hydrogen;

R_3 is $R_6R_7N-C(O)$ -lower alkyl; aryl substituted by one or two substituents selected from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, halogen, trifluoromethyl, carboxyl, lower alkoxy-carbonyl, amino, N-lower alkylamino, N,N-di-lower alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl and nitrile; or aryl-lower alkyl substituted by N-lower alkylamino, N,N-di-lower alkylamino or pyrrolidino;

with the proviso that

R_3 is not phenyl substituted by halogen, nitro, nitrile, hydroxyl, lower alkyl, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy or lower alkoxy-carbonyl if R_1 and R_5 are hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl or lower alkoxy; and

each of R_6 and R_7 , independently, is hydrogen; lower alkyl; hydroxy-lower alkyl; alkoxy-lower alkyl; hydroxyalkoxy-lower alkyl; amino-lower alkyl; N-lower alkylamino-lower alkyl; N,N-di-lower alkylamino-lower alkyl; N-(hydroxy-lower alkyl)amino-lower alkyl; or N,N-di(hydroxy-lower alkyl)amino-lower alkyl;

or a salt thereof. --

37. A compound according to claim 15 wherein each of R_1 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen; halogen; or lower alkyl;

each of R_2 and R_4 is hydrogen;

R_3 is $R_6R_7N-C(O)$ -lower alkyl; aryl substituted by carboxyl or $R_8R_9N-C(O)$; or aryl-lower alkyl substituted by N-lower alkylamino, N,N-di-lower alkylamino or pyrrolidino;